UMTS. In the UMTS terminal the WLAN connection can be implemented by means of an appropriate module in the form either of a WLAN radio section which is already integrated in addition into the UMTS terminal or as a WLAN PC card which has to be inserted into the corresponding interface of the terminal, for example in the form of a PCMCIA interface.

Because of the preferred application scenario of WLAN in the hot spots it is assumed that in future there will be a plurality of public as well as private WLAN providers worldwide, with each also operating their respective networks with different WLAN technologies. A problem for UMTS terminals which also want to use WLAN is the requirement to have a WLAN module with the appropriate technology for the respective WLAN access. An additional problem is that the respective UMTS terminal must also register as a customer with the respective network provider, either on the basis of a contract or dynamically at the present location.

In existing WLAN networks it is usually sufficient to specify only name, password and IP address for user authentication purposes. Furthermore, WLAN networks are currently identified and authenticated only by means of an arbitrarily chosen name (e.g. "WLAN Hamburg Airport") and the IP address of the access point.

The underlying object of the invention is to specify a method which permits a mobile radio terminal to be operated, more particularly to be operated in a heterogeneous environment as described above.

Claims

1. A method for operating terminals of a mobile radio communication system, in particular a mobile radio communication system operating in accordance with the UMTS standard, in at least one local wireless network, in particular a "wireless local area network" WLAN, characterized in that at least one item of access information can be stored on the terminal, with the access information being encoded in such a way that it comprises at least one first item of identification information for the mobile radio communication system and at least one second item of identification information for the local area network.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second item of identification information comprises a first item of information indicating the location of the local area network.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the second item of identification information comprises a second item of information indicating the type of the local area network.

4. The method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the second item of identification information comprises a third item of information indicating at least one service provided by the local area network.

5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the second item of identification information comprises a fourth item of information uniquely identifying the local area network.

6. The method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the first, second and/or third items of information are encoded by means of a maximum of three decimal digits.

7. The method as claimed in claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the fourth item of information is encoded by means of a maximum of five decimal digits.

8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the second items of identification information are stored as a first list organized in such a way that the first list contains those second items of identification information that are assigned to local area networks which allow the operation of the terminal within the local area network.

9. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the second items of identification information are stored as a first list organized in such a way that the first list contains those second items of identification information that are assigned to local area networks which forbid the operation of the terminal within the local area network.

10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the at least first item of access information is stored on a device serving for user identification, in particular a USIM module.

11. A device for performing the method, in particular as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

12. A telecommunication device characterized by the device as claimed in claim 11.